

PEC Minutes October 8, 2015

The Professional Educator's Council (PEC) met Thursday, October 8, at 1:00 pm in the Steen Library's Wyatt Room.

In attendance:

Dr. Judy Abbott, Ms. Carrie Durrett, Ms. Francheska Fernanadez (student representative), Dr. Brandon Fox, Ms. Hayley Gillen, Dr. Paula Griffin, Dr. Ali Hachem (for Dr. Stacy Hendricks), Ms. Haley Jameson, Dr. Paige Mask, Dr. Lisa Mize, Mr. Michael Munro, Dr. Carla Murgia, Dr. Jannah Nerren, Dr. Bill Nieberding, Dr. Heather Olson-Beal, Dr. Dale Perritt, Dr. Neill Armstrong (for Dr. Amanda Rudolph), Dr. Chris Sams, Dr. Nancy Shepherd, Dr. Kathleen Sheriff, Dr. Scott Slough, Ms. Katie Snyder, Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson, Dr. Elizabeth Spradley, Dr. Robbie Stewart, Ms. Lisa Stone, Dr. Janet Tareilo, Dr. Mark Turner, Dr. Liz Vaughan, Dr. Kimberly Welsh, Dr. Claudia Whitley, Dr. Michelle Williams, Ms. Carrie Williams, Dr. Carol Wright, and Mr. Chaz Zemanek (student representative)

Not in attendance:

Dr. Adam Akerson, Dr. Susan Casey, Ms. Shelia Dyer, Mr. David Goodman, Dr. Jeanie Gresham, Dr. Tom Judson, Ms. Lindsey Kennon, Dr. Lynda Martin, Dr. Glen McCuller, Ms. Melissa McMillian-Cunningham, Dr. Frank Mullins, Ms. Heather Munro, Dr. Phoebe Okungu, Dr. Terry Overton, Dr. Gabriela Recinos, Dr. Jose Neftali Recinos, Dr. Pauline Sampson, Ms. Heather Samuelson, Dr. Paul Sandul, Ms. Julie Stadler, Dr. Josephine Taylor, and Dr. Scott Whitney.

Dr. Nerren called the meeting to order and then asked for introductions.

The minutes from April 23 were reviewed:

- Dr. Solmonson made a motion to accept.
- Dr. Sams seconded the motion.
- All voted to approve minutes.

Dr. Nerren gave an accreditation update:

- The CAEP standards for Advanced Programs are expected to be released Fall 2016.
- The pilot dispositions instrument developed by the CAEP Unit Assessment Committee has been loaded into Livetext and is currently being piloted in all sections of clinical teaching. Dr. Nerren will share the results of the pilot administration with the committee.
- The CAEP Unit Assessment Committee will meet October 14 and begin work on updating the clinical teaching observation form.

Dr. Nerren also gave a SPA update:

- SPA reports for all programs responding to conditions have been uploaded/submitted successfully by September 15.
- The programs are awaiting the results of the submissions.

Dr. Nerren and Ms. Gillen shared information about the Field Experience Module:

- FEM was rolled out during the 2014-15 academic year and courses continue to be added to those utilizing FEM. This will continue until all field experience courses are using FEM.
- In Fall 2015, 17 courses were affected by FEM.
- Training in utilizing FEM is available from the Office of Assessment and Accountability.
- LiveText has reduced the fee from \$20 to \$18.

The next item covered was clinical (student) teaching:

- Carrie Durrett reported that there are currently 149 student teachers for Fall 2015 and that 215 had applied for Spring 2016.
- Dr. Nerren emphasized important dates on the clinical teaching calendar.
- She told the group that the Assessment and Accountability office had begun using Jack Text to remind students of important deadlines.
- She asked faculty to encourage students to enroll in JackText
- She invited faculty to the December 4 job fair and student teacher celebration.
- She pointed out the one difference this year is that student teachers can nominate outstanding field supervisors.
- She added that her office is willing to visit classes and give Educator Preparation Program (EPP) information sessions.

Ms. Snyder reported on legislative updates, testing limits and cohort GPAs:

- As of 9/1/15, a candidate is allowed seatings for a certification test no more than five times.
- It was clarified, however, that the limit of five failed attempts applies to all content tests a person attempts, not a limit of five failed attempts per content test, hence the word "seatings."
- The cohort GPA for the 2015-16 academic year must be 3.0.
- During the 2014-15 academic year, the cohort GPA was 3.39 for initial certification students and 3.63 overall.
- These data indicate that historically, the cohort GPA met these requirements.
- Ms. Snyder clarified the term PBIC intern based on the TEA definition.
- She added that Fall 2015 had 21 interns and disaggregated that number by teaching field.
- The council then debated when the Educator Preparation Program admission GPA went from 2.5 to 2.75.
- Dr. Abbott said this would be researched.
- Dr. Sams stressed that the 2.75 could only help the cohort GPA.

Dr. Tareilo reported for the Student Services and Advising:

- For the 2014-15 year, there were 3176 advising appointments.
- The first-time probations fell from 200+ in Fall 2014 to just 84 in Spring 2015.
- There were 72 suspensions.
- Course proposals and modifications need to be submitted by November.

Discussion items:

Second reading of the PEC Description:

- Dr. Michelle Williams made a motion to accept.
- Dr. Murgia seconded.
- Dr. Nerren encouraged looking at descriptions of other committees.
- Dr. Fox brought up the lack of reference to Robert's Rules of Order (RRO) in the committee procedures. This elicited extensive discussion.
- Dr. Williams prefers consensus and said that the RRO are not for everyone.
- Dr. Nerren emphasized that the PEC is a council not a committee.
- Dr. Nerren asked if the vote should be tabled until more investigation and discussion of the use of RRO could occur.
- It was brought up if the procedures section of the PEC Description should be amended to include an item f which would be the 11th edition of RRO.
- Dr. Shepherd commented that he liked RRO but that it can be intimidating and training may be needed.
- Dr. Nerren asked the council if they needed a parliamentarian.
- Dr. Michael Munro questioned the efficiency of RRO and they may only add an extra layer of work.
- Dr. Fox felt that RRO would have helped with the EPP interview issue and it protects entities.
- Dr. Williams said that RRO may cause people to get too caught up in small details and become obsessed with them.
- Various members of the group expressed concern that RRO may affect members' freedom to speak.
- Others said that RRO might protect leaders in a meeting.
- Dr. Nerren said that RRO might be a learning opportunity for students.
- Mr. Zemanek expressed concern that RRO could be very formal and take up too much time.
- There was a suggestion to maybe use RRO as a reference.
- Dr. Vaughan asked if the PEC would want to loosely or strictly follow RRO guidelines.
- Dr. Olson Beal said she had never used RRO and would likely discourage her from attending a meeting that uses the technique.
- Dr. Abbott called into question a friendly amendment to add RRO as item f to the procedures of the PEC Description.
- The results were as follows: yes-8; no-22; abstain-0
- Dr. Abbott also called into question if there should be new procedures for operational guidance.
- The results were as follows: yes-27; no-1; abstain-0

EPP admission deadline:

- Dr. Nerren stressed that this was for information only.
- She added that there had been discussion in the EPP regarding establishing deadlines for initial certification students seeking admission into EPP.
- She will send justifications and proposals soon regarding such deadlines.

EPP admissions interview:

- Dr. Nerren began the discussion by recognizing the ad hoc committee members who worked on the interview project.
- Dr. Vaughan discussed areas to improve with the process:
 - When a student was overall successful in the interview but maybe would score below 17 just because of one unsatisfactory answer.
 - How are candidates notified?
 - Who does remediation?
 - Faculty coordinating with students' availability times to interview.
 - Coordinating interviews with possible consideration of future EPP deadlines.
- Dr. Williams encouraged the group to encourage their students to move forward with the interview even if the GPA was below 2.75 for now but could improve throughout the semester.
- Dr. Turner mentioned remediation and remedies.
- Mr. Zemanek suggested maybe giving the student the rubric in advance (this is actually in place).
- He added that the interview questions may be great exit questions.
- Ms. Fernandez asked for clarification on the interview's purpose.
- Dr. Vaughan felt that the interview's main goal was to see if a student could communicate and articulate.
- Some on the council felt that the role of higher education is to develop the student's skills and that the role of the school district (who hires the student as a teacher) should be the one determines the student's dispositions.
- Dr. Nerren responded that SFA's EPP must determine dispositions for the opportunity to remediate as well as to meet the requirements of accrediting bodies.
- Ms. Fernandez stated that she wouldn't have had any idea how to answer such questions prior to taking education courses.
- Mr. Zemanek said that the interviews could help identify non-verbal communication.
- Dr. Abbott said that the pilot interview program was voted on to begin Fall 2015. While Elementary Education followed through on the piloting, Secondary Education has not yet. Instead, that department created a memo noting issues the department has with the interviews and solutions.
- Dr. Armstrong said that his department felt uncomfortable with the interview process, would like to ask for an exemption from the process for Fall 2015, and develop alternative screening devices to start in Spring 2015.
- Dr. Whitley suggested asking just 3-4 of the 8 questions in the interest of fairness (this is already in the procedures).
- Dr. Turner believed that music faculty should interview music majors.
- Dr. Slough agreed. He thought it was more important to know what a chemistry major, for example, knows about chemistry rather than diversity.
- Dr. Abbott stated that the pilot process is currently not entirely meeting the EPP's needs and is an iterative process.
- Dr. Fox agreed that a vote should be taken on whether or not to excuse Secondary Ed from the pilot program for Fall 2015 and that he embraces innovation.
- Dr. Solmonson's opinion was that the interview's purpose was to see if the student should be entering the teaching profession at all regardless of teaching field.
- Dr. Olson Beal pointed out that an unseen rubric could create a "gotcha" situation for the student and that the interview could encourage undue judgment of race, class, English proficiency, and dress. (*The procedures document currently makes the rubric available to the students prior to the interview.)
- Dr. Sams made a motion to accept Secondary Ed's memo.

- Ms. Jameson seconded.
- Dr. Mize mentioned that Secondary Ed made up the majority of the council members in attendance. She added that Secondary Ed represents a variety of fields and agreed with Dr. Turner that SED faculty should work with faculty in specific subject areas.
- Dr. Nieberding asked if the interviews, though they were pilots for now, were binding.
- Dr. Abbott replied they were.
- Both Drs. Nerren and Armstrong were under the impression that the interviews were meant to identify students in need of remediation rather than to exclude them.
- Dr. Armstrong stated that the education courses were meant to be transformative.
- The question was placed before the council on whether or not to allow SED the one-semester extension.
- The results were as follows: yes-3; no-0; abstain-3
- Dr. Nerren concluded that the interview process, rubric, and questions had generated considerable discussion and varied opinions. Therefore, all comments from the email vote will be combined into one document, and sent to the council prior to future meetings. She expressed that overall that the interview pilot in elementary education is going well, but will require further discussion with the ad hoc committee and the PEC before future iterations.

Due to time constraints, the final item, Concurrent Enrollment in Professional Programs/Admission Requirements for Professional Programs, was tabled. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Submitted:
Carrie Williams
Administrative Assistant
PCOE